The Repeater

The Vaca Valley Radio Club Newsletter

The Summer Is Approaching!

Time for the club to come together outdoors!

The Newsletter for May 2025

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THE VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browse our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions, please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance.

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 912, Vacaville, CA 95 696-0912.

An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988.

General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM.
See the directions on the last several pages.

Meetings Are Wheelchair Accessible

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A Message from The Editors of The Repeater

Welcome to May!

It is time to get serious about field day now.

Only another 2 months until Field Day is here.

Might be time to pull the pop ups out and check them for holes and worn out canopies or broken limbs.

Time to plan “what do we want the public to see about us”?

A disorganized, sloppy group or a group that looks professional enough to instill confidence.

Let the public see that we are professional.

We also need to plan what we will show the public about amateur radio

Let the public see that we aren’t just interested in emergency communications.

We are interested in Fox Hunts, Antenna Designs, satellites, and all the other aspects of field day that go away during an emergency.

Lets let the public see us for what we are not just what happens during an emergency.

That’s all I have to say for this month

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A Message from The President

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the President Servando Miramontes, K6SRV

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A message from the Vice President

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Vice President Dan Martin N6ETR

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A message from the Treasurer

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Treasurer Bryan KB0A

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A Message from the Secretary

Unfortunately, as of the publishing deadline, I did not receive any message from the Secretary Mike Gregory WB6WYF

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Meetings recorded by the Secretary

VACA VALLEY RADIO CLUB MEETING
4/13/2025

No information was sent to me about the meeting for april.

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This Month We Continue To Learning Morse Code.

This month we will be learning the characters Q Y Z Comma (,) 1 9 2 and 8.

I hope that everyone is learning correctly and efficiently and are mastering the characters for each month. I am available to do some online practice sessions using zoom as well, perhaps pick a few nights each week to go online and practice as a group. I believe that Monday, Wednesday and Fridays are good days to use since Tuesdays are the net and Thursdays is a meeting night.

The second Saturday night of the month I am still available to do ecomm and message practice so I usually am tied up with that.

With luck, by the end of June we can all be trained CW operators.

And who knows? Perhaps we can run a net on 10 meters some night all done in CW.

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Dressing Professionally

This month I am bringing up a proposal again about everyone looking professional in how we dress, and act. A proposal that we all should be dressed alike.

This is a reprint from last June's edition of the Repeater.

Lets discuss clothing when we are at an event or in the public eye.
Or
How to dress as if we are professionals.

Police, fire, military, nurses, doctors, emt's, even garbage men, all have the same outfit when they work. Granted nurses scrubs may be individualized but they still all wear scrubs.

ARE WE DRESSED SIMILARLY, AS IF WE HAVE A COMMON GOAL TO BE PROFESSIONAL, OR ARE WE DRESSED WEARING WHATEVER WE PUT ON THAT DAY WHEN WE SHOW UP TO ASSIST IN AN EVENT OR ARE OUT IN THE PUBLIC EYE?

If we want to be seen as professionals, we also need to dress the part.

When we are asked by an agency to assist them we should strive to be always dressed appropriately. Everyone wearing the same clothing as though we are coordinated. No matter what location we are responding from, we should still be able to coordinate our attire as a whole.

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We should still think of weather conditions, duration, hazards etc for additional clothing items.

The following is ONLY A PROPOSAL for an outfit we could consider for all of the club members to be using for ALL club activities and events. (And yes ladies, this would even be the outfit for you. No favoritism. No fashion decisions.) Feel free to add your own input about how you feel we should make ourselves look more uniform and professional.

The club would have to do a full member vote on it before anything is decided.

We obviously should ALWAYS wear a safety vest, safety green in color. (Yes, that is what that bright greenish yellow color is called). Even if we are wearing a rain suit or a heavy coat.

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Depending upon the weather we could also opt for a sweatshirt in safety green, or if it is cold enough, a coat in safety green.

For inclement weather, we should have a rain suit at the ready. Again, high visibility since we will be outside.

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A safety shirt, safety green in color. The safety shirt could be either long sleeve or short sleeve depending upon the weather conditions and comfort:

Our pants should also be the same, jeans which are blue or black, one color for everyone. Perhaps the color to be voted on at a meeting. If possible, the same brand as well for the jeans. I am suggesting jeans since they are more durable than dress pants.

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As an alternative to the safety shirt and jeans, we could buy an outfit from someplace like the 511 store that could be a set of tactical BDU's.

Perhaps TDU Green, Khaki or Black.

I know those would be durable but they would also run about $150-$175 for a shirt and pants. Each item is about $75-$80 apiece. It is a bit pricey as an alternative to jeans and safety shirts but they are durable.

The reason I suggested to do jeans is the cost. A lot of us are on fixed incomes and don't have $200 to put into an outfit that might only be used one or twice a year.

Here is the link to the pants: look at all 3 color choices and make your own notes.

https://www.511tactical.com/flex-tac-174-tdu-174-ripstop-pant.html

Here is the link to the short sleeve shirt: look at all 3 color choices and make your own notes.

https://www.511tactical.com/flex-tac-174-tdu-174-ripstop-short-sleeve.html

Here is the link to the long sleeve shirt: look at all 3 color choices and make your own notes.

https://www.511tactical.com/flex-tac-tdu-ripstop-long-sleeve-shirt.html

The short sleeve could be used during the summer and the long sleeve for the winter.

If we were to go with the 511 TDU they have a store located at 1595 Holiday Lane in Fairfield CA

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A black belt, 1 1/2 inches wide, with a basket weave design and a gold belt buckle should be worn with the pants. This should be strong enough to support a radio easily.

Our shoes should also look like we are professional. Work boots, black in color and steel toe as
well. They should also support the ankle. You wont be of any use if you are down from a
broken or sprained ankle.

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And with those work boots don't forget gel insoles or arch supports in case we are standing for long periods of time.

And the most important part of those work boots is:

BREAK THEM IN BEFORE YOU NEED THEM.

Sitting around with blisters on your feet while working is painful and miserable. Once you buy them, wear them for a few hours every other day until they are broken in. No one can afford to be side lined by foot problems during an activation.

We should have a hard hat with us just as a precaution.

A hard hat is needed for times we are erecting our antennas, mast, or there is a chance of objects falling. We should be wearing a hard hat any time we are setting equipment up above our heads. For our own safety it should also be a Class E hard hat. Class E hard hats are designed to withstand 20,000 volts of electricity.

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Sure a hard hat may not be comfortable to wear but it might protect you from being given brain damage or killed by a falling object.

We should always wear a hat when we are operating outdoors. It should be the same for everyone as well. It should protect us from the sun, such as a boonie hat with a neck guard.

A light tan color to reflect the sun. Something such as this:

We should always have our W6VVR badges on us to indicate who we are.

We also should not carry more than one Handheld radio on us. It should be in a holster attached on our belt with the microphone cord preferably wrapped around behind our body, so it does not dangle. The microphone should be able to be clipped onto our safety vest for easy access.

Spare batteries, a charger, perhaps an extra radio, only in case our primary radio stops working, can be kept in a small duffle bag until they are needed.

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Perhaps pack a small duffle bag and keep in with your vehicle all the time that contains a predesignated set of three outfits, that the club has voted on as our ‘uniform”, that we can change into if we are participating in an event or serving an agency. That way we are always ready to be seen as professionals no matter what the circumstances.

Remember, the public will see us how they see us. We can either present a united, coordinated front or we can look like a bunch of individuals that are just together for a weekend outing.

Only the club can decide how we should look to the public.

This is just something to think about..

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The Learning Corner

This month we will explore AREDN.

AREDN, in its simplest form, is just a private internet service that only operates on modified routers and outdoor access points by amateur radio operators only.

It is capable of doing everything the internet can, Email, Webcams, VOIP, BBS, chat rooms, file transfer, etc. If it is something you can do on the internet ***AND is Part 97 legal***, then you can do it with AREDN.

It is capable of being used off grid without any internet connection as that is how it was designed.

Using off the shelf access points and routers that are reprogrammed with a customized firmware upgrade, you can generally get an AREDN node going within an hour or so.

The AREDN website has detailed information about how to install and operate the AREDN software but it should be easily installed following the instructions,

That's all for now.

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Field Day is Coming!

And it will be here faster than you think

The club needs to start focusing on June field day.

We have the location, which is Solano Fair Grounds, now we need the volunteers to make the magic really happen.

We need people willing to assist in cooking,

Volunteer with setup and breakdown of the common areas, (The cooking and food tents).

We need someone to volunteer as a GOTA (Get on the air) station.

We need a Meet and Greet person at a table.

We need a volunteer to do club member check in as they arrive to the fairgrounds. Be a talk in for everyone attending.

We will need volunteers on Sunday to do a final policing of the area to ensure no one left anything behind, (pets, children, garbage, equipment, etc)

We need to start planning out and visualizing our sites.

We need all the club members to participate!

Lets show everyone that we can work as a team and a group.

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Links for equipment and parts for your Station

This will be by no means a complete list, and you should verify if what you need is available.

Obviously, I am going to start with amateur radio suppliers such as:

Ham Radio Outlet

DX Engineering

Gigaparts

Next are antenna parts suppliers:

American Radio Supply

Amateur Radio Supplies

Continental Steel

Stock Car Steel

Aluminum Wholesalers

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And electronics parts suppliers:

Mouser Electronics

Jameco Electronics

Arrow Electronics

Digikey Electronics

Newark

Elliott Electronic Supply

Test Equipment:

Test Equipment Depot

Siglent Technologies

Jameco Electronics

Fluke

As I have said this is by no means a complete list but you should recognize most names on the list.

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Recurring Club Meetings and Events
May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	1 Cow Town	2	3
4	5	6 Club Net	7	8 Cow Town Club Meeting	9	10 KK6ZJC Ecomm training 1900 hrs
11	12	13 Club Net	14	15 Cow Town	16	17 KK6ZJC Zoom Morse Code Practice 1900 hrs
18	19	20 Club Net	21	22 Cow Town	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27 Club Net	28	291 Cow Town	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Monthly Meetings are held at the Nut Tree Airport Vacaville CA	KK6ZJC can be reached by email at srb6101@gmail.com.	

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Information About Recurring Club Meetings and Events

The club net is at 2000 hours EVERY Tuesday using the W6VVR Repeater:

Receive 145.470 Transmit 144.870 CTCSS Tone 127.3

The Club Cow Town is a general rag chew every Thursday on the W6VVR Repeater. It starts about 1000-1030 local time using the same frequencies as above,

The monthly Club meeting is always held the second Thursday of the month at the Nut Tree Airport. The meeting starts at 7PM local time and generally runs through about 9PM. Directions to the meeting can be found at the end of the newsletter.

Every Saturday the same week as the club meeting at 1900 hours local time KK6ZJC will be using zoom to practice passing messages.

Anyone wishing to join in contact KK6ZJC by email at srb6101@gmail.com.

Please put ECOMM TRAINING in the subject.

I will generally check my emails right through Saturday night about 1830 hours local time. After 1915 hours if no one joins the meeting, I shut Zoom down

It is a great way to learn how to pass messages using the ICS-213 form, or practicing sending messages for the general public using the ARRL forms.

I will be running a zoom session on the third week of the month for anyone that wants to do practice session for Morse code. If you send an email to srb6101@gmail.com and let me know I will send a link to the zoom meeting.

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Special Club Meetings and Other Events in the area

I am listing all special events the club is looking for volunteers to assist in, fox hunts, or events out of the ordinary.

Dixon May Fair Parade May 10, 2025. Looking for club members to assist with communications.

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Contest

Below is link to a great contesting website by fellow Amateur Radio Operator Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

https://contestcalendar.com/

The calendar list contest in multiple ways.

It is easy to use and regularly updated.

Hope that it helps you with your contesting!

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The Club Repeater(s)

The Vaca Valley Radio Club sponsors repeaters on several bands.

The club provides some financial support, but the owners provide a substantial portion of the cost of their operation.

The efforts of the owners are greatly appreciated.

The main repeater for the club is: Call Sign: W6VVR

Output Frequency: 145.470MHz
Input Frequency: 144.870MHz
Offset Frequency: 600KHz
Offset Direction: Minus
CTCSS tone (P.L.): 127.3Hz

Vaca Valley Radio Club Sponsored Repeaters
As Of November 1, 2023

Rptr Out	Offset	P.L.	Call/ Location	Linked Repeaters
145.470	Minus 600 KHz	127.3	W6VVR Mt Vaca	Linked to 441.650 MHz
440.025	Plus 5 MHz	127.3	WV6F Mt Vaca	
441.650	Plus 5 MHz	100.0	N6VLF Fairfield	Linked to 145.470 MHz
145.140	Minus 600 KHz	700.0 DG-ID 00-00	Moderate level	Can operate Yaesu Fusion AMS Can be linked to 145.470 MHz or 441.650 MHz

Visitors are welcome to use the repeaters.

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EchoLink and AllStar Nodes

The Vaca Valley Radio Club operates both an EchoLink and an Allstar Nodes that link to the clubs main repeater on 145.470 MHz on top of Mt Vaca.

NOTE: EchoLink is UP, Allstar node is UP.

Call Sign: W6VVR

EchoLink Node 454 312 W6VVR-R

Allstar Node 51 094

Visitors are welcome to use the nodes.

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2025 Officers:

President:	Servando Miramontes	K6SRV
Vice President:	Dan Martin	N6ETR
Treasurer:	Brian Steinberg	KB0A
Secretary:	Mike Gregory	WB6WYF

2025 Board of Directors:

Art Aronsen	WD6BQX
Chris Swanson	KJ6DLF
Mike Rogers	KN6MIO
Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC

Net Control Operators

1st Week Of The Month	Bob Hawkins	KM6BXZ
2nd Week Of The Month	Chris Swanson	KJ6DLF
3rd Week Of The Month	Frank Garay	KJ6RWQ
4th Week Of The Month	Dan Martin	N6ETR
5th Week Of The Month	Dan Martin	N6ETR

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VOLUNTEER POSITIONS:

Membership	Bryan Steinberg	KB0A
Repeater Trustee	Brian Hagen	KK6BXP
Repeater Committee Chair	Brian Hagen	KK6BXP
Newsletter Editor	Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC
Webmaster	Bryan Steinberg	KB0A
Net Control Coordinator (Filled by the Vice President as per the Club Constitution)	Dan Martin	N6ETR
Activities Committee Chair	Don Preston	KM6INR
Monthly Message Passing Practice Net	Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC
Foxhunt Coordinator	Stephen Bartels	KK6ZJC
Parks on the Air Coordinator	Servando Miramontes	K6SRV
Bicycle Events Coordinator		
Parade Events Coordinator		
Winter Field Day Committee		
Dixon Mayfair Parade	Servando Miramontes	K6SRV
June Field Day Committee		

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Volunteer Positions (Continued)

Dia De Los Muertos	Servando Miramontes	KK6ZJC
Merriment on Main (Vacaville)		
Dixon Tree Lighting		
Fairfield Tree Lighting		
December Meeting		
Public Information Officer		
Winlink Committee Chair		
FL-Digi Committee Chair		
Morse Code Training Sessions		
AREDN Committee Chair		

We still have numerous committees that need chairpersons and volunteers for the upcoming year (2025). (See the list above.) They need to be filled for the upcoming year by younger volunteers and those with experience to guide the club forward into the future.

This is your club. You can make it a great club by participating in meetings, events, and nets, or you can watch the club wither away and die from lack of participation by ALL members.

It is in your hands, are you going to watch the club end? Or, are you going to jump in and help steer the club forward to the future?

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Vaca Valley Radio Club, Inc

Membership Application/Renewal Form

November 2019 Dues are payable annually.

New Members Please Fill in All Fields Completely
Renewing Members Please Provide Name and Call Sign,
Other Fields *Only if there are changes*

Member Information

FCC Name:_____

Street:_____

Street 2:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip-Code+4:_____

Home Phone:_____

Cell Phone:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Payment Information

Member Dues: $25.00 _____

Additional Family Members: $2.00 _____

Student: $5.00 _____

Repeater Donation: _____

Total:_____$_____

Paid by Check: $_____

Check number: _____

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Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

FCC Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

Family Member (Spouse or Children)

Name:_____

Call Sign:_____

License Class:_____

ARRL Member?_____

Member No:_____

Name Badge Name_____

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Directions To the Monthly Meeting from Fairfield, Suisun City And Other Areas West of Vacaville

Coming from Fairfield: Take Highway 80 East Bound. Take exit 55 Nut Tree Parkway / Allison Drive. Stay to the left and enter the right left turn lane

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Turn left from the right turn lane and stay in the right lane. Be careful not to get back on the highway entrance.

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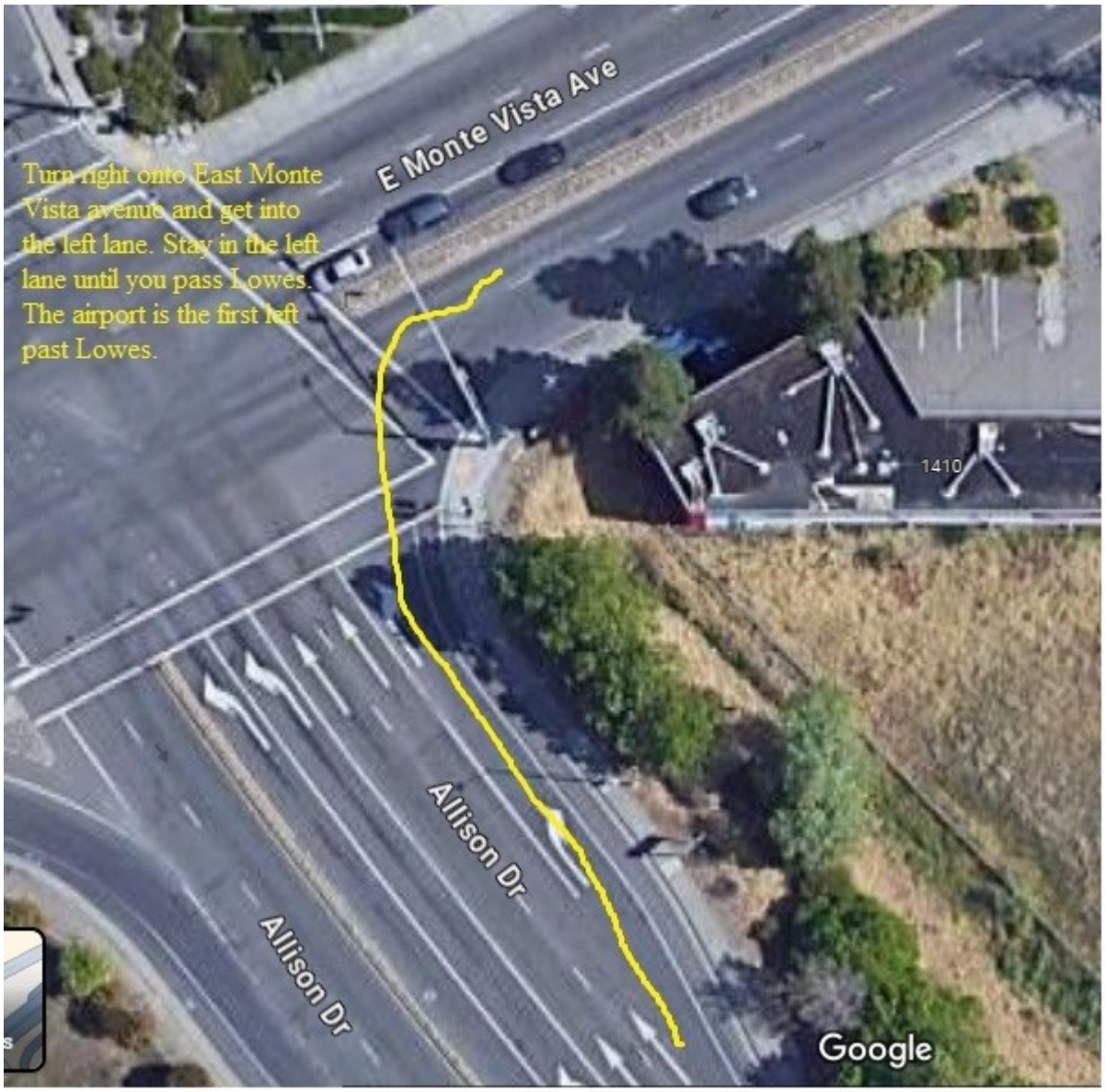
Go over the overpass and make the right turn onto East Monte Vista Avenue.



Get in the left lane of E Monte Vista Avenue and drive East until you pass Lowes.

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The airport is immediately past the Lowes Parking lot.

Turn left and drive to the airport parking lot on your right.

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Directions To The Monthly Meeting From Dixon, Sacramento And Other Areas East of Vacaville

Coming West from Dixon take the E Monte Vista Avenue exit, (exit 55)

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Take the Right turn Lane at the exit

Stay in the right lane until the light.

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At the light turn Right and get into the left lane.

After making the right turn, get into the left lane and drive East until you see Lowes.

Turn left and drive to the airport parking lot on your right.

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